

for each of the plurality of sources,
creating a corresponding program including
identifying a corresponding web site, the corresponding web
site selling the product and

providing a tool for creating the corresponding
program to extract data from the web site using the at least
one extraction parameter;

receiving a connection from a client, the connection
including a value for the at least one extraction parameter;
and

simultaneously providing, for each of the plurality of
sources, product information for the product using the value
for the at least one extraction parameter and the
corresponding program, including:

when the product information includes product
information for at least two sources of the plurality of
sources, simultaneously providing the product information for
the at least two sources of the plurality of sources.

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4. (Amended) The method of claim 3, further comprising:

receiving a selection signal;

applying the extraction pattern to find a matching

pattern in a document displayed in a source view in
the web browser; and

displaying a rendered version of the matching pattern in
a window.

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6. (Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the plurality of
predefined extraction patterns includes at least one of an
extraction pattern for matching a hyperlink, an extraction
pattern for matching a form, and an extraction pattern for
matching a price.

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9. (Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the defining the plurality of steps comprises, for each of the plurality of steps, receiving a selection of an extraction command from a predetermined list of extraction commands.

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12. (Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein at least one step in the plurality of steps includes a test condition comprising a logical test for at least one corresponding argument and a first step in the plurality of steps, and wherein the program continues executing at the first step when the logical test is satisfied.

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14. (Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the test condition further comprises a result code, wherein the program returns an error when the result code is a web site changed result code.

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15. (Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the test condition further comprises a result code, wherein the program returns an error when the result code is a no matching products result code.

18. (Twice Amended) An apparatus for providing information about a product, the product available for purchase from a plurality of sources, the apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a selection of a product category from a predefined set of product categories using information about the product;

means for accessing a list of extraction parameters for the product category;

means for receiving a selection of at least one extraction parameter in the list of extraction parameters;

means for creating a corresponding program for each of the plurality of sources, the means for creating a

corresponding program for each of the plurality of sources including:

means for identifying a corresponding web site, the corresponding web site selling the product, and

means for creating the corresponding program to extract data from the web site using the at least one extraction parameter;

means for receiving a connection from a client, the connection including a value for the at least one extraction parameter; and

means for simultaneously providing product information for the product from each of the plurality of sources using the value for the at least one extraction parameter and the corresponding program, wherein when the product information includes product information for at least two sources of the plurality of sources, the means for providing product information simultaneously provides the product information for the at least two sources of the plurality of sources.

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21. (Twice Amended) A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave comprising:

a computer program for developing a description of data of interest;

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a set of instructions for developing an extractor pattern interactively in a web page;

a set of instructions for receiving a selection of an instruction from a predefined set of instructions for inclusion of the instruction in the description of data of interest;

a set of instructions for associating the extractor pattern with the instruction;

a set of instructions for testing the instruction using the extractor pattern and the contents of a buffer; and

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a set of instructions for, when product information includes product information for at least two sources from a plurality of sources, simultaneously providing the product information for the at least two sources of the plurality of sources.
